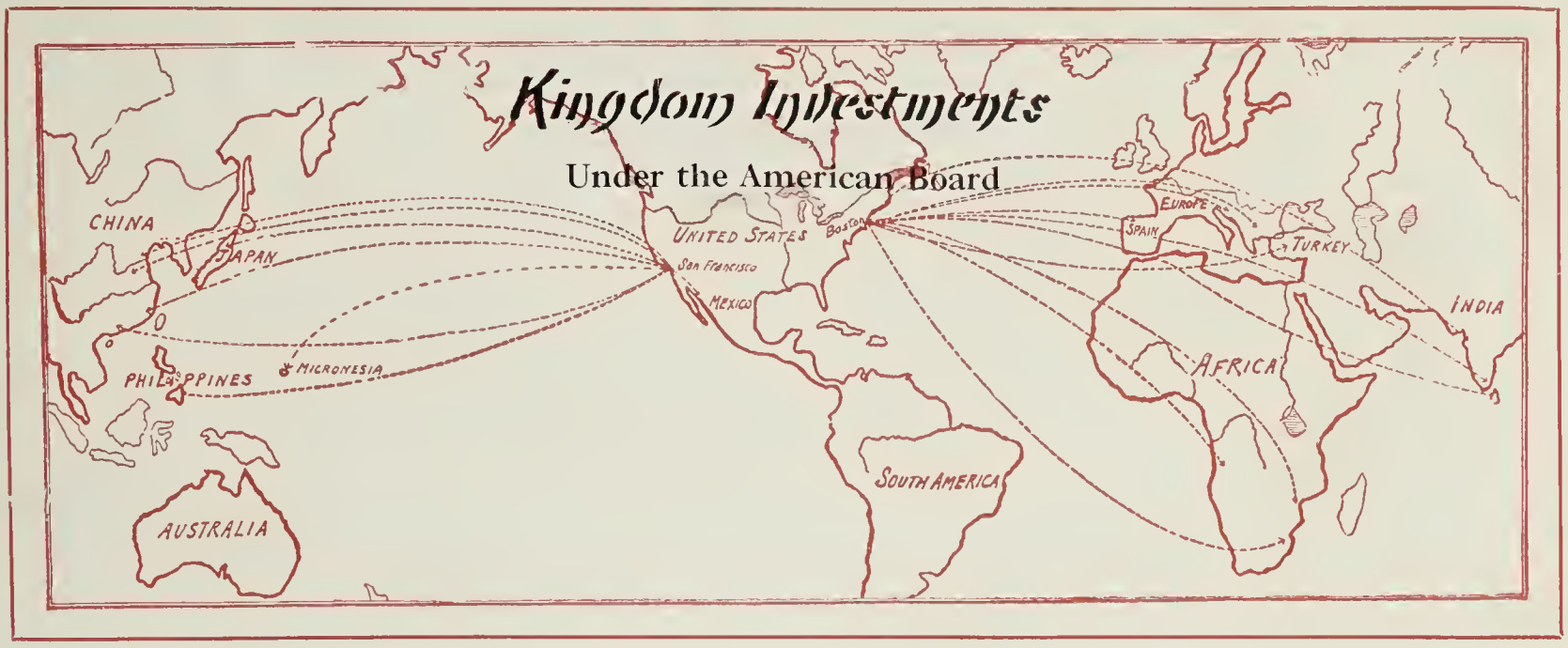

Why Invest in Africa?

RAW MATERIAL—AFRICA

Because the missionary problem in Africa is critical, and because that vast, needy continent is too often overlooked. The Far East — aggressive Japan, potential China, and restless India — holds our attention; but Africa — so immense that it could contain all North America and Europe — hardly arrests our glance. Yet in Africa Christianity is waging a war on three "fronts" — with the forces of unscrupulous Commercialism, of Paganism, or Mohammedanism. If the forces of Christianity are not adequately re-enforced, equipped and maintained, the conquest of the continent for Christ will be indefinitely postponed.

The forces of Commercialism certainly have not overlooked Africa. Great forests, abundant mineral wealth — copper, iron, tin, coal, gold and diamonds — long ago attracted the prospector who wanted to see Africa "developed." But along with the promoters of legitimate trade have gone the unscrupulous traders, out to exploit Africa. The stories of the early slave trade, of the Congo atrocities, and of the present-day virtual slavery on the cocoa plantations of San Thome and Principe show what havoc these exploiters can bring to a child race. Wherever the unscrupulous commercial leader has gone, into the ports, up the great river valleys into the heart of the continent, along the railroads, or in the mines of the south, there the Christian missionary and his African helpers must wage a ceaseless warfare against the most debasing vices of "civilization."

Mohammedanism has not overlooked Africa. While the church of the Middle Ages was busy with the Crusades, the opportunity to strengthen the Christian forces in Africa was passing. Mohammedanism was taking possession of North Africa. Gradually, Mohammedan forces have progressed. In recent years a new zeal has seized them, and more rapidly than ever before they have marched southward. The whole northern part of the continent, nearly to the equator, is penetrated by Mohammedan forces. Unless the Christian forces, sparsely scattered along the Mediterranean and the Nile Valley, and more solidly entrenched in the southern part of the continent, are re-enforced and maintained, that onward, moving army cannot be stopped. Mohammedanism today is claiming not only countless pagan tribes but is even winning over occasional Christian villages, not fully established in Christ.

And there is Paganism, constituting the third great "front" which Christianity faces. About forty million Africans, in the central and southern zones, are held in the grip of a religion of fear. Myriad hostile spirits, superstitions without number, degrading customs, witchcraft, polygamy, hold this virile, promising

people in bondage. Wherever the Christian missionary forces have been strongly established thousands of lives have been transformed into Christlike character. But vast regions in the heart of Africa remain unevangelized. Surely Christian forces adequate to occupy these regions must be provided.

THE CHRISTIAN FORCES

The late Lord Bryce said, "The Gospel and the mission schools are at present the most truly civilizing influences which work upon the natives, and upon these influences, more than on any other agency, does the progress of the colored race depend."

The missionaries have put the light spots in dark Africa. Champions of every reform movement, they have struck blow after blow against the slave trade, the liquor traffic, and every injustice in whatever name. In 1917, 119 Protestant missionary societies were at work in Africa, thirty-six of them American. The whole missionary force numbered 5,300. Communicants numbered about 730,000.

OUR CONGREGATIONAL TASK

The American Board has been at work in Africa since 1835. In three regions we have now well-established work. We are strategically located in Natal, where we work among the Zulus, one of the finest specimens of all African peoples. We are established to the north in Rhodesia, and also on the west coast in Angola, where we are responsible for five million of the promising Ovimbundu people. In these three fields we have 105 missionaries at work.

Our missionaries are not confronted directly by the great problem of Mohammedanism. But they are face to face with Paganism, and with the problems brought by the unscrupulous white man. In South Africa they face pressing race problems between white and black, and also because of the influx of Hindus. Everywhere new problems, as well as opportunities, arise from the growing sense of his own importance, which the black man's share in the Great War has brought.

Our work in Johannesburg, in the Transvaal, is a remarkable example of twentieth century missionary methods, aimed to meet the evils of European "civilization." Johannesburg is in the heart of the Rand, the great mining region, from which comes 40 per cent of the world's gold. The white man's brain, capital, and energy have developed this gold field, but the black man has furnished the indispensable "cheap labor." About 300,000 black men are at work in the Rand. They come from all sections of the sub-continent, work six months or so in the mines, and then return to their kraals, while new laborers take their places. In a year about 500,000 raw heathen come under the spell of Johannesburg, and in its "University of Crime" take full courses in the vices and crimes of civilization. They come heathen; they go back to their kraals "devils," unless --! And right here the missionary steps in, not only with his chapels and schools, but with a social center, game and reading rooms, gymnasium and swimming pool, moving pictures and other clean amusements. The missionary is the black man's friend, visiting him in the mine compound, and in the barracks, following him up in slum and saloon. The influence of this work is felt all over the southern half of the continent, for many of these laborers return to their homes Christians, and start new centers of Christian influence. Recently two such centers have sprung up without any aid from the missionaries, through the work done by Christian black men returned from Johannesburg. Part of the task of our missionaries, especially of Dr. F. B. Bridgman, is to follow up the Johannesburg work, by touring in the outlying field, encouraging and advising these earnest Christian leaders.

Another outstanding feature of our work in Africa is industrial and agricultural education. The African peoples need training in the most elementary features of civilized life. At Mt. Silinda, Rhodesia, our brick kiln, saw mill, carpentry and machine shops have helped build Christian character in the men and boys, while the girls have been trained in fundamental household arts. Such industries serve also to provide for the growing needs of the surrounding territory, and aid the mission financially to some extent. In the West Africa field industrial training is being developed chiefly at Dondi, and in the Zulu field at Amanzimtoti.

The medical work of the Board in Africa is on a very modest scale, compared with other mission fields. We have only eight physicians at work. Only two

of them are equipped with a building worthy of the name "hospital," and yet each one is doing a large and exceedingly important work, not only in giving physical relief to the sick, but also in raising standards of living and in forming friendly relations with the people which greatly help the evangelistic worker. In Durban, Dr. McCord is developing a plan to train promising black men as physicians among their own people in meeting the more simple cases of illness. They will help to put the witch doctor with his nefarious practices out of business. Nurses also are being trained in Durban.

Underlying all the social and medical work, the schools and the special industrial and agricultural training, is evangelism. Every missionary is an evangelistic worker, whether he is working with the Bible and hymn book, the school book, the lancet, the plow, or the gymnasium; yet in each mission there are men and women who are giving their whole time to religious instruction. To them great opportunities are opening up. Just now an unusual evangelistic opportunity is reported from West Africa. Within a year about forty places have been opened up. A new population of ninety thousand was thus reached, and nearly three thousand children were placed under Christian instruction. What the results of such openings may be can hardly be imagined.

WILL YOU HELP WIN AFRICA?

For the year 1922 the American Board is appropriating $72,891 for general work and missionary support in Africa. Of this amount about $27,000 is subscribed by churches particularly interested in that field. But that leaves $45,000 unsubscribed. We offer a $10,000 block of this budget to our churches now. When that block is subscribed another will be offered. A **share** is $25, a convenient sum for individual gifts, for small churches, for young people's societies. For the larger churches a block of shares may be subscribed.

WHAT THE $10,000 BUDGET INCLUDES

Salaries	$4,150
Portions of five salaries	
General Work	
Evangelism	2,500
Education (including general and industrial)	3,000
Medicine	250
Social Work	100
	$10,000

Subscribing any portion of this — one share or many shares — means having a part in all phases of our work in Africa. It means sharing in the salaries of missionaries engaged in various lines of work: — Dr. Bridgman, in his far-reaching evangelistic work along the Rand, Mr. Phillips, in his important undertakings in the Johannesburg social center; Mr. Alvord, trained agriculturist, and Mr. Mather, educational supervisor, both in Rhodesia; and Dr. Hollenbeck in West Africa, physician first, but incidentally promoter of industries, agriculture, and many another activity. It means contributing to the work itself in all its phases, from the enterprises in the big cities like Durban and Johannesburg, to the villages in the heart of the continent, among the people who are "waiting for the words." It means making an investment which, through church and school and hospital, will yield rich returns in Christian character.

WHO IS THE FIRST TO INVEST?

It will take four hundred shares at $25 per share to cover this budget. Almost any church could raise $25 annually, to subscribe for one share, and certainly many churches could cover two, three, four or five shares. A certificate will be sent to each subscriber, and three letters a year may be expected, full of good stories, and reporting upon the on-goings of the work. See our general circular of information, entitled, **Kingdom Investments under the American Board,** as to the advantages, possibilities and conditions which we offer under these Kingdom Investments in Africa. **Under This Plan Each Subscriber Is Given the Opportunity of Sharing in Every Item of the Budget; Hence, It Should Be Kept in Mind That We Cannot Assign Any One Item to One Person or Group. Let Us All Share Together in This Glorious Work for Christ.**

REV. MERLIN ENNIS ACTING LIKE A REAL DOCTOR AT SACHIKELA

GAMBLING INSIDE A MINE COMPOUND
AT JOHANNESBURG

NEAR THE END OF THE TRAIL
Mrs. Alvord in the machila

REV. A. E. LEROY
ADAMS

SERVICE INSIDE MINE COMPOUND
JOHANNESBURG

MR. A. R. MATHER
MT. SILINDA

SAWMILL AT MT. SILINDA

REV F. B BRIDGMAN

REV. R. E. PHILLIPS

JOHANNESBURG

AN ANGOLA MAID

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING, AFRICA'S HOPE FOR THE FUTURE